



# Red Door

## FAMILY SHELTER

### 2009 Annual Report

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#### 2009 Annual Report



### *Message from the Executive Director*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I want to thank you for your continued support of the Red Door Family Shelter. My heart warms at the continued support we receive, even in trying times. You are such a large part of this organization and I want to invite you to see, first hand, the difference you make in so many lives.

The Red Door has begun a Welcome Tour program for the community in order to show you what it means to live in a family shelter. Our goal is to dispel the many misconceptions that exist about family homelessness.

The tour showcases the complexity of the issues that our families are dealing with, and walks you through the client experience from the time they enter the shelter until they are back out in the community.

You will learn about how families are received at the shelter, how they live day to day, and what programs are offered to them. You will also get to meet some of the wonderful staff who make it happen.

The tour puts a face to every dollar that you donate to us. Here, you can see exactly what your money is doing to help the families of the Red Door.

It allows us the opportunity to meet you as well, because you are more than just a donor to us. You are walking hand in hand with us as we continue to provide the best support possible to those experiencing an episode of homelessness and fleeing abuse.

I look forward to meeting you and thank you once again for your contributions. To sign up for a shelter tour, take a look at the events calendar on our website by visiting [www.reddoorshelter.ca](http://www.reddoorshelter.ca)

Sincerely,

Bernitta Hawkins

### *Employee Feature*

At the Red Door, there are many people behind the scenes, helping to make the shelter a success. Linda Fenton, a shelter Cook, is one of them.

Everyday, Linda helps prepare nearly 300 meals for the families in the shelter. Her work ensures that each person receives healthy and hearty food, that not only nourishes their body, but also their soul.

Linda has worked at the Red Door for over 15 years and can't see herself leaving. She truly enjoys her job and all the help and

support she is able to provide the families at the shelter.

For Linda, the best part of her job is being able to see the direct impact she is making in another person's life. This is the dedication that Linda brings to her work every day.

Thank you Linda for your passion and commitment and for always bringing your bright smile and cheerful attitude with you to work!



## *Transforming Lives*

**M**y boyfriend had become very abusive to me and my son. We left and moved in with my parents, but he began to threaten that he would take my child!

***"He was constantly harassing me, my friends and family. I was afraid for all of us."***

A close family friend told me about a place where you can go if you're leaving an abusive situation, a place where you can take your kids and run away to, the Red Door.

Without another thought I left. My son and I were very traumatized when we arrived and I was scared.

The staff were all very welcoming and put no pressure

on us and were very respectful of our privacy. The staff were always willing to help, to go out of their way to help.

They guided me through the process of pressing charges against my ex and ensuring that he would never bother us again.

The staff were always there for me no matter what. They even came with me to court so I wouldn't have to face my ex alone.

My son and I now have a new apartment. I'm working again and my son is happy in his new school.

***"I don't know what my life would be like now if I had not gone there."***

They took care of us and kept me and my son safe. I felt love there. It was a wonderful experience and it set me on a track for my new life.

Thank you Red Door.

## ***"Change is possible..."***

This is the message that was delivered to 150 people at Red Door's first Fundraising Brunch on Saturday April 18th, and the message was heard loud and clear.



At the hour long event, over \$60,000 was raised to support the critical work of the Red Door Family Shelter.

Noted guests included

MP of Toronto-Danforth and leader of the New Democrats, Jack Layton, who expressed that ***"the event was moving and motivational and one of the best fundraisers I've ever attended"***.

The event was a free, hour long brunch, where guests were shown first-hand how the Red Door is changing lives in our community every day.

The Fundraising Brunch will be an annual event and is an excellent way to invite others to learn more about the Red Door in hopes of expanding our community of supporters.

For more information, please contact Anne Forsyth, Fund Development Manager at 416-915-5671 ext 230 or by email at [aforsyth@reddoorshelter.ca](mailto:aforsyth@reddoorshelter.ca).

## ***Schmoozing with a Purpose***

It was an amazing night with great music by Canadian artists, **Aaron Pritchett**, **Divine Brown** and **God Made Me Funky** and a fabulous Host, **John Filomena** from Citytv's Inside Fashion!

The Red Door was very grateful to be selected as one of two shelters benefitting from the **7th Annual Panty Schmooze**, which was held on June 1st, 2009 at the beautiful Palais Royale.

The Panty Schmooze is a not-for-profit networking event, organized by the women of Toronto's Music Industry, which raises much needed funds, items and awareness for local women's shelters.

The event was a huge success raising a record \$14,300 dollars, just under 1000 pairs of new panties and 100 new bras and many other critical items for the women at both the Red Door Family Shelter and Julliette's Place!

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the event and to the organizing committee for their exceptional hard work and dedication. The Red Door has been selected to participate again in 2010 and we look forward to seeing you at the 8th Annual Panty Schmooze!

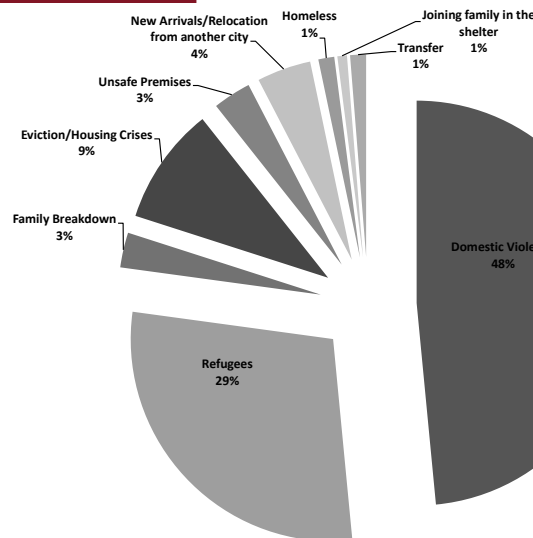
## Who we Serve

Over the past year we have seen an increase in the number of families served who are escaping domestic violence. This is a result of the reopening of our VAW (violence against women) shelter location in June of 2008, after undergoing renovations.

Three primary client groups were served by the Red Door in 2008/2009. Approximately 50% were women and children fleeing domestic violence, 25% of families were facing a housing crisis and the final 25% were newcomers to Canada and refugee claimants.

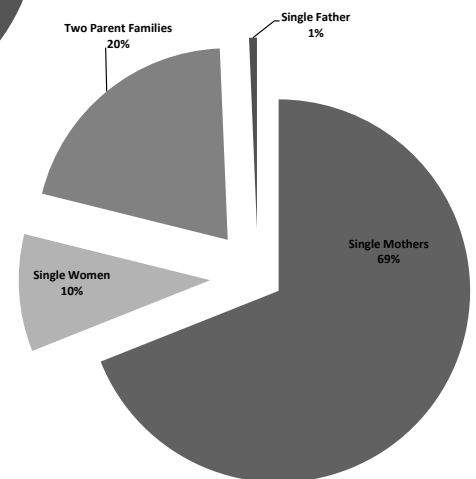
In 2008/2009, the Red Door Family Shelter provided 24 hour, safe and supportive emergency housing to over 300 families experiencing an episode with homelessness.

Over 69% of families served last year were led by single mothers. Even more alarming is the fact that over 90% of all individuals served were women and children, demonstrating that the trends in family homelessness are not changing.



## The Year in Review

### Reasons for Coming



### Family Composition

### Revenue & Expenses for the Year Ended March 31, 2009

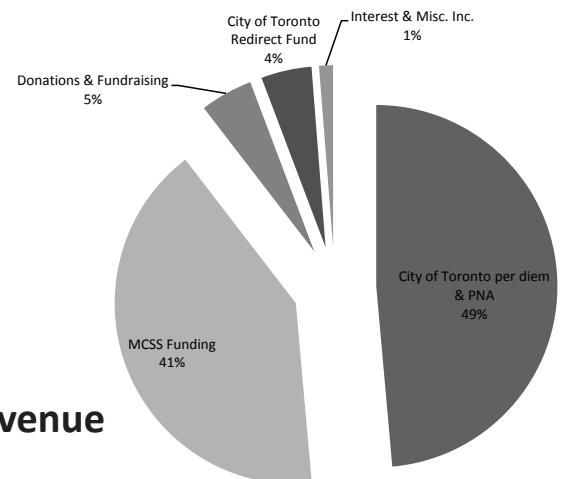
#### Revenue

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| City of Toronto per diem & PNA        | \$ 2,410,888        |
| MCSS Funding                          | \$ 2,033,044        |
| Donations & Fundraising               | \$ 232,613          |
| City of Toronto Redirect Fund         | \$ 223,912          |
| Interest & Misc. Inc.                 | \$ 61,623           |
| Gain on dispositions of Capital Asset | \$ -                |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                  | <b>\$ 4,962,080</b> |

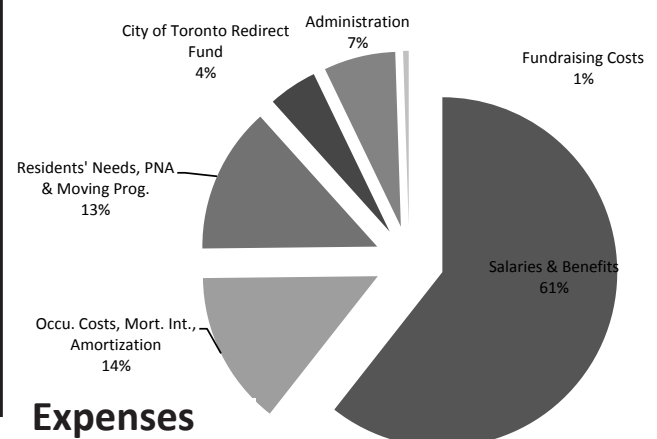
#### Expenses

|                                                      |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits                                  | \$ 3,127,210        |
| Occu. Costs, Mort. Int., Amortization                | \$ 733,992          |
| Residents' Needs, PNA & Moving Prog.                 | \$ 697,306          |
| City of Toronto Redirect Fund                        | \$ 232,810          |
| Administration                                       | \$ 342,176          |
| Fundraising Costs                                    | \$ 26,629           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                | <b>\$ 5,160,123</b> |
| <b>Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b> | <b>\$ (198,043)</b> |

### Revenue



### Expenses



## Family Fun

### Enjoy the Summer ...on a Budget!

Family and community are core values celebrated by the Red Door. With these values in mind, here are some fun and free activities for you and your family to enjoy around the city this summer.

#### A Day at the Beach

Toronto has a number of great beaches to explore. From touring the Toronto Island to a game of Frisbee at Woodbine, fun at the water's edge is never a far journey. To check out Toronto's great beaches visit [www.blueflag.ca](http://www.blueflag.ca)

#### Gardens and Parks

What better way to spend a sunny day with the family than enjoying the serene and natural beauty of the outdoors, right here in the City. Whether it's Allan Gardens, Riverdale Farm or High Park, there are tons of bike trails, places for a picnic or just simply to take a stroll and get a breath of fresh air. To plan your day at the park visit [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks)

#### Stargazing

Choose a clear night, gaze into outer space and receive a quick astronomy lesson from top experts. York University offers free public stargazing activities on Wednesday nights from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Guests

## Summer Fun Word Scramble

R A T E W      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

G A C I M P N      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

N S U      \_ \_ \_

A H T      \_ \_ \_

S O R H T S      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

W I M S I M G N      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

K E B I      \_ \_ \_ \_

are encouraged to bring their own camera and snap photos of the stars.

For more information visit [www.yorku.ca](http://www.yorku.ca)

#### Music and Art

From June 28 to September 20, the Harbourfront Centre is hosting free shows on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. [www.harbourfrontcentre.com](http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com)

The Royal Ontario Museum offers free general admission every Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the Art Gallery of Ontario does the same on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Saying Goodbye

We would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to Andrew Hussain, President of the Red Door Family Shelter's Board of Directors.

Andrew first joined the Red Door family as an IT volunteer and since 2004, has been a valued and dedicated member of the Board. Becoming President of the Board in 2006, Andrew has provided critical insight and expertise to the organization. His numerous contributions have allowed the Red Door to further its mission and vision by helping to achieve a number of critical goals such as the urgently needed increase in funding for our family shelter location.

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Andrew as his term on the Board comes to an end. Thank you Andrew for all of your continued support. You will truly be missed!



**Red Door**  
FAMILY SHELTER

**Help support families  
in need today!**

Make your donation  
or learn about how to get involved  
by visiting us at  
[www.reddoorshelter.ca](http://www.reddoorshelter.ca)